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# THE BAPTIST RECORD

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Nashville, Tennessee  
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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Mississippian selected for TruthQuest

Tony Martin  
Associate Editor

What do Survivor, The Real World, and TruthQuest: California have in common?

If you answered, "They all deal with reality programming for television," you'd be right. You would score bonus points if you knew that part of the Southern Baptist team bringing TruthQuest to the airwaves is a young woman from Jackson.

Katie Royals, a member of First Church, Jackson, and a senior at Jackson Academy, is one of twelve teenagers chosen to participate in TruthQuest: California, a new reality-based TV show that follows the adventures of a group as they travel through California reporting on and participating in cutting-edge missionary work.

Royals, age 17, is the worship leader for her school's Fellowship of Christian Athletes group and is president of the Key Club. She has also served on domestic and international mission teams.

She plans to attend Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton in the fall, and study either music or art.

TruthQuest: California will introduce the concept of reality television to FamilyNet, a 24-hour values network run by the North American Mission Board's Broadcast Communications Group.

Baptist Press will sponsor FamilyNet camera crews that will follow the 12 teens on a 16-day quest to discover missions and ministry in California.

The 12 young people had not met each other until the weekend of February 16-17 in Nashville.

"It was amazing how quickly we bonded," Royals said.

The weekend served as a time for orientation, as well as an opportunity for the members of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee to meet the teens during their regularly-scheduled, semi-annual meeting on February 18-19 in Nashville.

The team was also introduced Feb. 17 at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville.

The TruthQuest team begins serving July 13 by participating with the Coastal Community Church in San Diego's surfing ministry.

They will join the church for worship and baptisms on the beach.

During the following week, the team will meet Christian stars in

Hollywood, scale the mountains in Yosemite National Park with North American Mission Board missionaries, minister to teenagers at a coffee house in San Francisco, and more.

The group returns to their homes July 22.

Royals was interviewed in Nashville by The Baptist Record, after the group was introduced to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

"My youth minister at the church told me about this ministry," Royals said, "and I had to send in an application and a video. I got the call that I'd been accepted, and boy, was I excited."

"When I get back to Jackson, I'm supposed to get with my friends and start an accountability group," Royals said. "This isn't the kind of thing I can do without support."

The TruthQuest: California team will be featured on an interactive website, com-



MISSISSIPPI MEETS CALIFORNIA — Katie Royals, a member of First Church, Jackson, is shown at the Parthenon building in Nashville. An avid photographer, Royals is one of 12 teenagers chosen from across the country to participate in Truth Quest: California, a reality-based TV show to be aired on FamilyNet. (BR special photo)

plete with fun bios, TruthQuest trivia, Bible study and the plan of salvation. The website will be operational in the spring of this year.

"It has been said that the quest for truth is timeless," said Will Hall, vice president for news services for the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and executive editor of Baptist Press in Nashville.

"Baptist Press readers and Family Net viewers will see the evidence of this truth as our team journeys throughout California."

"The young people who have been selected for this journey are outstanding and we look forward to reporting about the ministries they discover along the way," Hall said.

"We are not a cast," Royals said. "We are a team. We don't want to give any impression that we're anything else."

When asked what she hoped to receive from this opportunity, Royals said, "I want to be more aware of what's out there. I want God to give me the faith and courage to be bold for him."

In addition to Royals, the 12-member team includes Southern Baptist teenagers from New York City, Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Louisiana, and Colorado.

Students were selected based on their writing ability, devotion to missions, spiritual walk, and community involvement.



IN SEARCH OF THE TRUTH — The Truth Quest: California team spent a week-end in Nashville, in preparation for their week-long mission event and reality-based TV show. Pictured, (front row from left) are Richard Sparkman, Franklin, Tenn.; Sarah Brown, Youngstown, Ohio; Andy Botts, Cleveland, Tenn.; middle row, Josh Merritt, Dacula, Ga.; Shanna Hawkins, Winston-Salem, N. C.; Katie Royals, Jackson; Janie Jo Allen, Arvada, Colo.; Cara Yates, Cleveland, Tenn.; back row, David Hicks, Cleveland, Tenn.; Tim Harms, Franklin, Tenn.; Freeman Field, New York City; and Chip Luter, New Orleans, La. (BR special photo)

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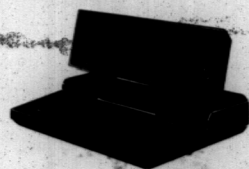
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# Where's the money?

Tracking bills of interest through the Mississippi Legislature is often an up-and-down, roller coaster experience. A favored bill makes it past one hurdle, only to be snared by a deadline. Maddeningly, an unctuous bill somehow slips through the roadblocks and makes it to the governor's desk. Other bills die in committee, with supporters hoping for another round and opponents wishing it would stay buried.

One bill didn't see the light of day, and Mississippi Baptists should applaud. A proposal to allow the state's public universities to teach gambling courses — an annual favorite of the gambling/political complex — was not brought up for a committee vote this year. Save any last-minute heroics by the bill's supporters, it's dead for another session.

There are a lot of Mississippians who don't understand why the gamblers can't foot the bill to train their own employees, without depending on the taxpayers to do their work for them. That's a good question.

What's next? A major in liquor store management? Tobacco Sales 101? A masters degree in bartending? Don't laugh — we're already far past the point on the slippery slope where we can turn back.

What seemed ludicrous 20 years ago is often the accepted social custom of today.

After all, who would have thought 20 years ago that we would allow total strangers to cart nearly \$3,000,000,000 out of Mississippi each year without us so much as blinking an eye? That's right — Mississippi casinos had another record year of income in 2001, approaching the three-billion-dollar mark.

That's good for Mississippi, right? Weren't we promised that gambling would solve all our state's money problems? Didn't they tell us that no school would ever again have to do without state of the art facilities and equipment? Wasn't Mississippi's unemployment rate supposed to drop through the floor?

Well, it didn't quite happen that way.

While Mississippi's casinos are breaking all-time records for raking in the cash, the state's budget is headed in the opposite direction and the state's unemployment rate is about to explode as teachers are expected to be laid off for lack of funds.

"Public schools are taking the biggest hit in the latest round of state budget cuts," states the lead paragraph in the page one story in The Clarion-Ledger of February 14. To date, almost \$62,000,000 has been cut from the state's public education funds.

That's more than most schools can bear. "I don't see how any public school districts can continue to sustain these kinds of cuts, especially not at this time of year," said Hinds County Schools Superintendent Phyfa Eiland, in The Clarion-Ledger article.

Madison County Schools will be forced to lay off at least 26 teachers because of the state funding cuts, Superintendent Mike Kent told the Madison County Herald in its February 21 edition.

"Right now, we're in a situation where the bottom line is we've got to keep the lights on," said Kent, who has been forced to freeze all spending and fears even more drastic action will be necessary next year.

The question that demands to be asked of legislators, year after year, is: Where's the money we were promised gambling would bring in?

The public schools certainly aren't getting it. Neither are state agencies, who after the public schools had to bear the remaining brunt of the total \$116,800,000 in budget cuts. Ditto for public universities, community colleges, and the Medicaid program.

Almost three billion dollars in income, and the casinos want the taxpayers's



already-overburdened educational system to train their employees. Just when you thought it couldn't get any more ludicrous.

Contact your legislators today and ask them, "Where's the money?" Legislators can be reached during the current session at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215-1018. The telephone number while the Legislature is in session is (601) 359-3770. They can be reached at home on weekends and when the Legislature is not in session.

Being a legislator can be a thankless job. Most mean well, and try their best to do what's best for the state. That doesn't let them off the hook, however, when it comes to answering the question, "Where's the money?"

Ask them, or sit back and don't complain as the casinos continue to financially and morally strip bare our state. Those are really the only two choices we have.

## GUEST OPINION:



*Be blessed by a  
vocational evangelist*

By S.A. "Sonny" Adkins, director  
Evangelism Department, MBCB

A few choice servants have received a special call from God. They are vocational evangelists. I have experiences with them in two areas of service. First, the ministries of vocational evangelists blessed my ministry as pastor and the ministries of the churches I served. They were a constant source to motivate and mobilize the church to do evangelism, and they were effective at drawing the net to reach the lost.

Secondly, during my seven years as a vocational evangelist I experienced the joy of victories in the churches and conventions of our state and nation brought on by the dedication and sacrifices of vocational evangelists.

The fields are indeed "white unto harvest" in this twenty-first century culture. With all its challenges, this day offers unprecedented opportunities. The biblical office and gift in the New Testament church known as the evangelist is as viable in the twenty-first century as it was in the twentieth century.

The various methods of the

evangelist may have changed over the centuries, but the message and task remain the same — evangelism.

Pastors and church leaders, may I suggest to you as you plan your 2002 calendar and beyond that you prayerfully consider inviting a Mississippi vocational evangelist to lead in revival emphasis in your church?

Our vocational evangelists are committed to helping bring Mississippi to Jesus. These men and women bring a unique evangelism platform to your church. Your church will be blessed by having a vocational evangelist. Seek the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Mississippi's vocational evangelists are capable and prepared. They recently hosted an entire session of the 2002 Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference, and our cups were filled to overflowing!

These evangelists are available to you for crusades, revivals, conferences, concerts, and training. They can make a significant contribution to your outreach efforts.

As you utilize these vocational evangelists, remember that they are dependent on the love gifts of God's people. I encourage you to receive them as God's gift to the churches they serve, and bless them even as you are blessed.

God continues to call evangelists as his laborers into the fields to assist his churches in the eternal work of evangelism. May God use this mighty resource in your ministry as one tool for developing winning strategies in the twenty-first century to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

Also, please contact your Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department whenever we can be of assistance in your evangelistic emphases. The department can provide a list of evangelists and otherwise help in the planning of your emphases. The address is P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3278 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail: pbozeman@mbcb.org.

Mississippi's vocational evangelists: what a blessing!

The Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Department and the annual Mississippi Baptist State Evangelism Conference are supported by the Mississippi Cooperative Program.



# Missionaries at work in vacation hotspot

ORLANDO, Fla. — Forty million tourists annually flock to Orlando to be entertained to their heart's content. If Marc and Sandra Johnston have their way, a growing number will return home with changed hearts.

Johnston serves as resort ministries director for the Greater Orlando Baptist Association. He and Sandra are among the featured missionaries of the North American Mission Board's 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, planned for March 3-10.

Each year the Johnstons recruit up to 20 college-age youth to serve on creative arts and other ministry teams throughout Central Florida, sharing their faith as they provide entertainment and ministry.

If there's an empty section of sidewalk, chances are the students will stake it out and transform it into their stage.

"You name it, our creative arts team does it," Johnston says with an upbeat optimism for the upcoming tourist season. When it comes to variety, he works to be sure his audiences are never bored and enjoy every performance.

Musicians. Vocalists. Puppeteers. Jugglers. Choreographers. There's even a fire eater on staff to mesmerize the audiences with flames he quenches before their eyes.

"We've learned that we can reach a lot of people through nontraditional methods," Johnston says. And the more non-traditional, the better, in the land of Shamu the Killer Whale, Mickey and Minnie, and (King) Kongfrontation.



**GOSPEL IN PARADISE** — Marc Johnston (left), resort ministries director for the Orlando Baptist Association, talks to a young boy participating in one of the many Kids Clubs led by Southern Baptist summer missionaries at Orlando area hotel swimming pools. (Photo By Ken Touchton)

"Last year we reported 200 professions of faith through all of our ministries, and we've had an increase for each of the last five years. Nearly 130 of those occurred during the busy summer tourist season.

"We use a variety of ways to tell the Gospel story and try to present it in a different light so people will understand it easier than through a traditional sermon approach."

The scene at Church Street Station in downtown Orlando says it all. This major tourist destination attracts thousands each night, with larger crowds on weekends. Unofficially known as Party Central, it's where you go to see and be seen. Johnston has gained permission to allow the team to perform outside of the massive complex as people wait to enter.

On this balmy summer evening, the crowd is attracted to

David Hicks, a US/C-2 missionary from Alabama, as he performs a juggling act. Then the program takes a slightly more serious direction as local volunteer Peter O'Driscoll presents the Gospel using fluorescent paint.

The glowing colors fascinate the crowd as they listen, in a fresh new way, to a story as old as the ages. Before they know it, many that would not sit through a sermon have heard the plan of salvation.

The schedule for the creative arts team, popular with tourists, is not for the faint-hearted. The team regularly performs in seven different locations Tuesday through Friday with a larger program featuring the knife-apple-torch juggler on Saturday evenings.

On Sundays they split up into praise teams and help lead in worship services at the Disney's Polynesian Resort and in small churches.

Resort ministries is more than just creative arts. Johnston also utilizes up to 30 student volunteers in a variety of ways away from the performance mode.

• He supervises a program of nearly 30 Kids Clubs at area

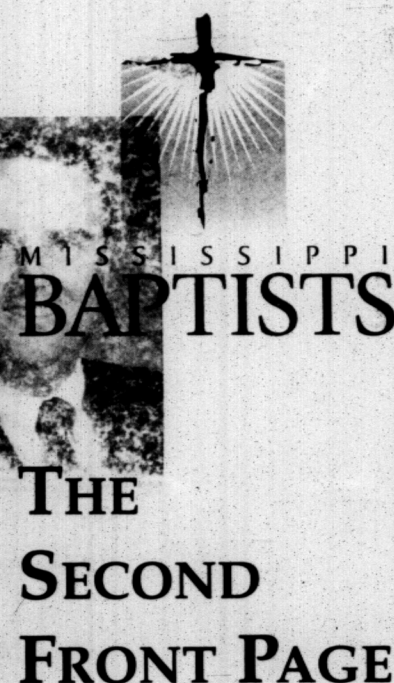
hotel swimming pools, reaching up to 400 children a week in a setting similar to a Backyard Bible Club. By reaching the children, opportunities arise to minister to their parents.

• For the last three years he has piloted a program where students are employed at hotels, which gives them an opportunity to provide complimentary chaplaincy services to other employees with whom they work. Many times that relationship opens doors to beginning a Kids Club on the property, also.

• He helps students secure jobs as pool monitors at manufactured housing communities.

• He coordinates eight weeks of day camps ranging from four to six each week. With 50% of the Central Florida population residing in multi-housing settings, many of

the camps are held in apartments and manufactured housing communities which proliferate in the area.



## THE BAPTIST Record

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### Supporting missionaries

The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions supports missionaries throughout United States and Canada, according to officials of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Ask missionaries what AAEO means to them, and they'll readily admit that it is the lifeblood for their service. When Southern Baptists place their money in the offering plate, they are in essence placing it in the hands of a missionary. Every dollar given to AAEO goes to support missionaries on the field. The North American Mission Board (NAMB) works in partnership with state conventions to distribute monies given through the AAEO to missionaries and their efforts. Since the offering was named for Annie Armstrong in 1934, more than \$800 million has been received by NAMB to use in reaching people in the United States and Canada for Christ. The 2002 AAEO National Goal is \$52 million. The largest expenditure of AAEO funds, about 75%, is for salaries (the majority of missionaries are jointly funded by state conventions and NAMB), health benefits, orientation, and ongoing training expenses of mission personnel. About 18% goes toward church-planting expenses. AAEO funds provide overhead costs for starting a church such as rental of a facility, material, and promotional expenses. About seven percent goes to a variety of evangelism projects such as church and community ministries, resort ministries, and literacy missions. Projects that undergird missionaries' work, such as sports evangelism, Scripture distribution, special evangelism events, Internet evangelism, and media use are ways missionaries use AAEO funds to impact North America for Christ.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, meeting in its regularly-scheduled semi-annual meeting in Nashville, squarely positions itself against homosexuality and against two North Carolina churches weighing measures sympathetic to homosexuality.

#### 20 years ago

This year's \$22 million national goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions represents the largest percentage increase of any goal in the offering's 88-year history, according to officials of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### 50 years ago

"I cannot conceive of the establishment of diplomatic relations with any church... I will oppose the nomination of anyone to go as ambassador to the Vatican," writes Alabama Senator John Sparkman to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.





# Second career leads to ministry to pastors

COLUMBUS, Indiana — It's a second career for retired Air Force special agent Stu Cundiff and unlike his first, it's one he can share completely with his wife Jan.

The Air Force equivalent of an FBI agent for 22 years, Stu often was away from his wife and family, and even more often was unable to discuss his work with her. For the last dozen years they've served together in South Central Baptist Association of Indiana.

He's director of missions for the association; she is the state literacy consultant and associational language missions director. Together the couple — married 45 years and post-retirement graduates of Southern

Seminary — are featured missionaries for the North American Mission Board's 2002 Week of Prayer and Offering for North American Missions, scheduled for March 3-10.

His ministry has four main aspects, Cundiff said. His is a pastor to the pastor, supporter of existing

churches, starter of new churches, and builder of the association.

There were nine churches and one mission congregation when he was named director of missions in 1989. Today, there are 21 churches and five missions located in 10 counties in south-central Indiana. The Cundiffs drive about 2,000 miles each month as they minister.

"I try to visit a different church every Sunday morning," Stu Cundiff said. "I call the pastor in advance and ask him if he's going to be in the pulpit. and then I also say, 'If possible, and it's convenient to you, I'd like to take you to lunch after the morning worship service.'"

"My wife Jan and I take the pastor and his wife and family to lunch," Cundiff continued. "We fellowship with them. We talk to them about their family, about their concerns, about their church. We get to laugh with them; we get to cry with them; we get to pray with them. That's what I call pastoring the pastors."

"Usually not a day goes by that one of the pastors doesn't call me and ask me for advice and counsel," he continued. "Sometimes I just listen. Sometimes I'll pray with them even over the phone."

Jan Cundiff's work often is just as one-on-one. She teaches English as a Second Language to Chinese students on Mondays, a Japanese woman on Tuesdays, and the wife of an Hispanic pastor on Wednesdays. Weekends



TEACHING — Jan Cundiff works with English as a Second Language student Lin Bao Zhen at a local Chinese restaurant managed by Zhen and her sister. Cundiff is literacy missions consultant for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. (Photo By Gibbs Frazier)

are often filled with English as a Second Language (ESL) training workshops around the state.

In their early 60s and in relatively good health, Stu and Jan Cundiff carve hours from their schedule each month to spend with their three grandchildren who live in Columbus. Two other grandchildren live in Texas but in a sense, they are grandparents to every congregation in the small cities, towns, and rural areas of South Central Association.

"We've been here 12 years," Stu Cundiff said. "There is not one pastor in this association who was here when I got here. There has been a complete

turnover. We need to pray to the Lord of the harvest to raise up native born Indiana Hoosier men to plant their lives here in Indiana as pastors and lay leaders, to sow Indiana with Christ-centered churches. That's my main prayer."

"When I was 18 years old I knew that God called me to be a foreign missionary," Jan Cundiff said.

"I just didn't know he was going to bring the mission field here to me. It's been a wonderful experience to learn that God is not limited to the way I think. He has ways way past my ideas."



WELCOME — Stuart Cundiff (left) hugs fellow church member Sonny Brown after a Wednesday night service. Cundiff serves 21 churches and five missions as associational missionary for a 10-county region of Indiana. (Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

## Missionary having impact on at-risk D.C. kids

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Wednesday afternoon Royal Ambassadors (RA) session at Johnenning Baptist Center began with the basics.

"Give me a verse!" says Wes Garrett, director of the center. "Joshua 1:9 — Do not be terrified, because your God will be with you wherever you go," one of the boys answers quickly. "Psalm 27:1 — The Lord is the light of my salvation. Whom shall I fear?" says another.

If there is a common thread to those choices, it isn't entirely coincidental. Fear is a significant issue in the Washington Highlands neighborhood of Southeast D.C., where illegal drugs are the dominant industry.

Garrett believes that the more influence he can have through RAs and other ministries, the more likely they are to discover Christ as the ultimate solution to the problems they face.

"In a word it would be relationships," said Garrett, who in four years has revitalized the ministries of the center and brought a renewed focus on evangelistic ministry. "In our effort to get them to know Christ, we just get to know them — and they must get to know us."

Garrett is one of the featured missionaries of the 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, scheduled for March 3-10. He is one of nearly 200 church and commu-

nity ministries missionaries across the United States and Canada reaching individuals with the gospel through meeting physical and spiritual needs.

Garrett understands the impact a Southern Baptist ministry center can have on an individual because he has experienced those benefits firsthand. Friendship House, a Baptist center in the Newport News, Va., neighborhood where he grew up, provided not only emergency food and clothing on occasion but also a broad range of programs that shaped him spiritually.

"It was at a camp sponsored by the center that I felt God calling me to go into that type of ministry," he said. "God gave me a love

for it because I went through it, I believe."

After a stint as a chaplain's assistant in the military, Garrett found himself back at Friendship House serving in a variety of roles until he was named director in 1989. He became a NAMB missionary in 1993, and was asked to take on the leadership of Johnenning in 1997.

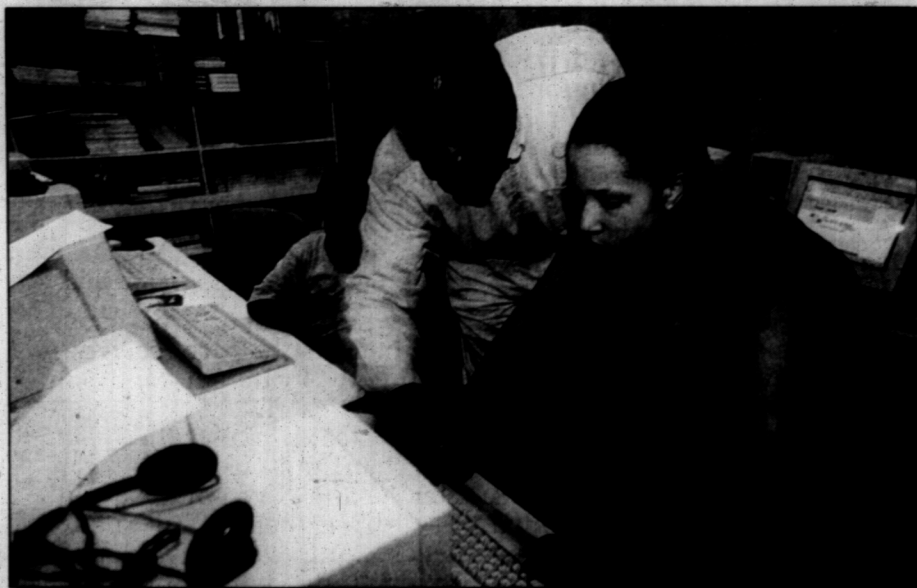
The center is historic in the D.C. Baptist Convention, named after home missionary Anna Banks Johnenning in 1959. Since his arrival Garrett provided the impetus for a broad range of ministries focused on transforming lives with the gospel.

"He's had a great influence here, because he has really brought the center back to life again," said Ione Hicks, a member of Johnenning Church, located next door to the center. "More people are involved in the center than they were. And the children especially. In the classes they have here, they get to know Christ in their lives, and the counseling they get here has really helped."

Center ministries include a job placement program, a Bible study for senior adults and an affiliated day care center located in the same building.

"I guess my first love is working with children that need help," said Garrett.

"I just enjoy being around these children, seeing them nurtured, and seeing them changed."



MOUSE GOES THERE — Wes Garrett (second from left) works with a child in the computer lab of the Johnenning Baptist Center, where he serves as director. (Photo By Ken Touchton)



# Native American missionaries reaching out

McALESTER, Okla. — Tom Anderson's step isn't as swift as it used to be, but he's no less determined in his mission to reach Native Americans with the Gospel by starting new Southern Baptist churches in southeastern Oklahoma.

"I can go up there, but it sure kills my knees," Anderson said as he slowly scaled a set of stairs to a second-story apartment. With church flyer and Gospel tract in hand and an engaging smile on his face, Tom walked past a small snarling dog standing in the breezeway and invited the resident to attend their new church meeting in the local chamber of commerce building.

"I'm 68 years old and I could have retired some years back, but I enjoy doing this work and in fact if my health continues I am going to continue doing this work as long as I can," Anderson said.

As Southern Baptist church planting missionaries, Tom and his wife Rhoda put in a lot of legwork — literally. Whether it's going door-to-door in an apartment complex, prayer walking a neighborhood, or driving 150 miles one way to preach and play the piano at a newly started church, church planting requires some long hours and a lot of patience.

Tom and Rhoda wouldn't have it any other way. The Andersons are among the missionaries featured in the 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10.

Starting new Southern Baptist churches in southeastern Oklahoma, an area steeped in Native American culture, has its challenges and it's those challenges, Anderson said, that compel him to stay on mission.

Southeastern Oklahoma is home to more than 250,000 Native Americans, 98% of whom are unchurched. The Andersons minister among five Native American nations: descendants of the Cherokees, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole who re-settled in the area in the early 1800s.

Forced from their homeland throughout the United States following Congress' passage of the Indian Removal Act to make room for American expansion, these tribes lost nearly a fourth of their populations to epidemics.

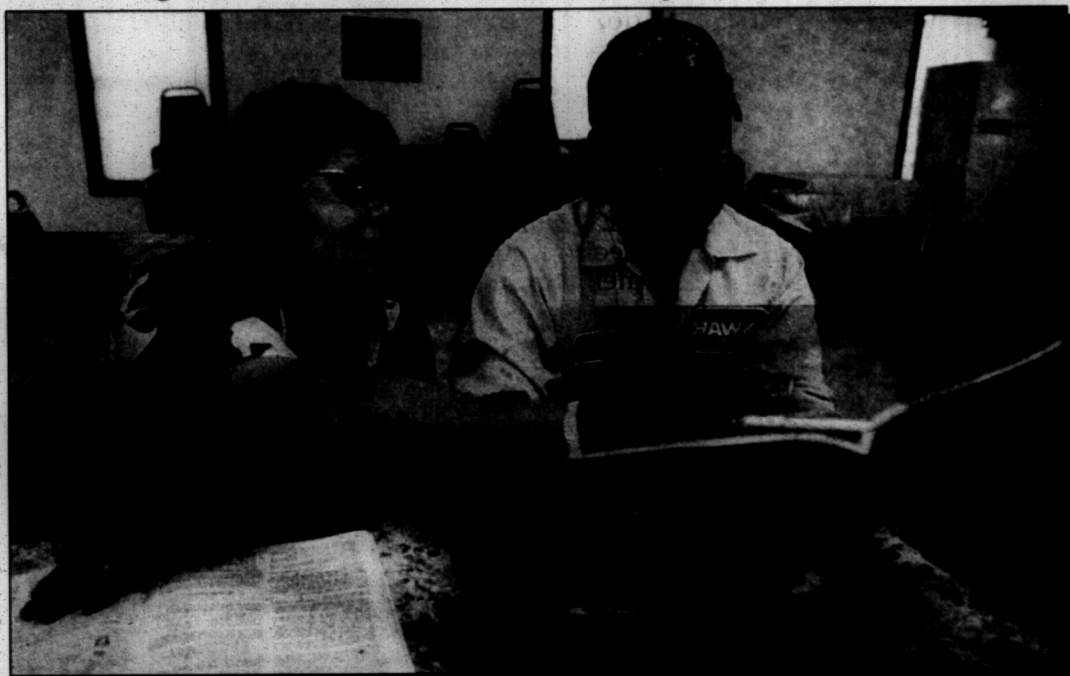
Anderson understands the challenges and knows the importance of Southern Baptist mission work among Native Americans because he is one.

"I'm a product of Southern Baptist mission work," said Anderson, a Choctaw Indian. "I'm a product of missions and I believe in it."

Anderson became a Christian when he was 14 at a revival service in his Choctaw Indian village in southeastern Oklahoma, where a Native American Southern Baptist missionary was preaching.

"I look at my own life and I see where the change has come, from where my people were religious," said Anderson.

"They did have a religion, but we didn't have Christ. So, I just use my own life as a testimony as I tell them about Jesus... I simply share with them the way that they can be changed," he said.



**OPENING MINDS** — Rhoda Anderson (left) works with literacy student Ruben Chavira in McAlester, Okla., helping him learn to read and write English. (Photo By Gibbs Frazier)

## HUNGER AND THIRST

What is there about being told that you can't have something, even if you really don't want it, that makes you want to have it?

Recently, I was supposed to take one of those glucose/cholesterol tests that require you to fast after midnight. The instructions were that if you were going to have this blood test, you were not to eat or drink anything after midnight and the next morning you could have the test run.

I thought to myself, "No big deal!" I don't eat late anyway and never, I mean never, do I remember getting up during the night to get some water. I don't even wake up in the morning wanting water. So, I thought this was no major problem for me — not eating or drinking from midnight till the next morning when I would have the test.

Add to this scenario the fact that I really don't even like water. Rarely ever do I get thirsty. I hear these recommendations from dietary gurus saying we are supposed to drink eight glasses of water a day.

WHAT? Why, I would drown! I can't drink eight glasses of water in a MONTH! I do know people who actually like water and they just drink and drink and drink it. They probably drink eight glasses of water before noon-time, but not me!

Now, I'm not "anti-water" you understand. I just don't crave it — that is, until I was told I couldn't have any! I actually began to think about wanting water shortly after noon, twelve hours before I couldn't have any.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Honestly! I began to contemplate midnight and I thought about taking one last sip in preparation for not being able to take another for eight to ten more hours. What in the world is at work in the human psyche that revs us up to want to have what we are not supposed to have?

You know, if it were just me I would simply pass it off as being different or weird, but it's not just me — it's every one of us!

In fact, it started with our first parents. God told them they could have anything they wanted. The whole garden was theirs. All of the blessings in the garden were theirs.

Whatever they desired they could have — except for one tree in the midst of the garden. They were told they could not take of that fruit. Well, in two shakes of a snake's tail, Adam and Eve began looking with longing, lusting eyes at that one tree.

How many trees and how much fruit was in that garden? I don't know. I would guess plenty! But, it was that one tree — that's what they wanted. And lo and behold, that's what they got, too.

The problem of wanting what we're not suppose to have just keeps on permeating itself within us. In my case, with the water, I wanted it and I wasn't

even thirsty and didn't even need it. I knew if I had it, it would mess up the test.

Amazingly, I had watched that same thought process take place in some man who wanted a woman. He had a wife and knew if he had the other woman it would mess up everything, but still, that's what he wanted.

I've known people who wanted to take something that wasn't theirs. They rationalized why it ought to be theirs and how much they needed to have it, though they really didn't need it and if they had it, it would probably mess up something else. Their thoughts got to be so convoluted that they really believed it was very important and even right to do wrong, so they took it. Bad thinking!

In James' little book in the New Testament, he says, "When lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death." Lust, the desire mechanism in us — the "wanter" — the "I've got to have it" — drive begins to distort everything we see and twist everything we think, until finally it brings into birth (life) a sinful act. Then we are in store for sin's tragic finale — death. Sin kills!

It seems as though it would

be easy for us to experience gratification in its proper time, in its proper place, and in its God-appointed proper way. It seems we could delay gratification, but no, it's not as easy as it sounds.

In fact, apart from the power of God in his redeeming Son, Jesus, you can not just try to will yourself out of sin. Only Jesus can deliver you. Only Jesus can keep you from getting on the train that is going to wreck.

In contrast, wouldn't it be wonderful if our hunger for things that are good for us was just as intense! Jesus instructed us in the Sermon on the Mount that if we hunger and thirst after righteousness, we can be filled.

It doesn't seem to work this way, but what if you and I were told that we would have to do without the Lord? What if we were told we could not spend time with Jesus today, nor call on him to guide us and help us?

What if we were not permitted to be in worship this Sunday to experience his love cascading over our hearts? What if we were not permitted to ingest anything, whether it is music, moments of meditation, Bible study, or uplifting fellowship?

What if we were told we would never again know the warm welcome of Jesus to a new day, or the great strength of the Lord when we face crucial issues, or experience his tender embrace when there is no where else to turn?

Even thinking about it creates a hunger in my soul and if I could not have him, I do not know what I would do. May God give us the grace to control those passions that would harm, and increase our desire for the things that are right.

## Family rally planned for Phoenix SBC

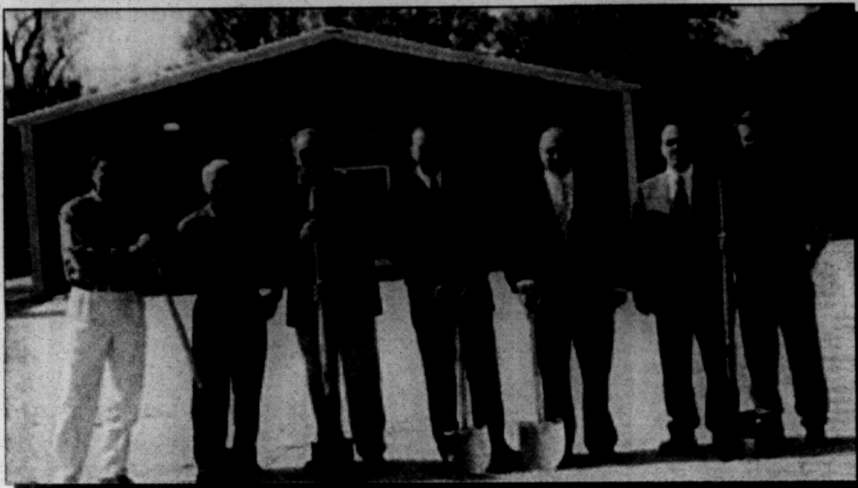
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists have scheduled their "first-ever convention-wide rally to save the family." Tom Elliff, chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Council on Family Life, said the rally will be June 19, 2003, in Phoenix, Ariz., the day after the June 17-18 SBC annual meeting there. The rally will feature "the best of the best" among family speakers, including breakout sessions for mothers and fathers, husbands and wives, students and children, said Elliff, a former SBC president and pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. The Council on Family Life was created during the 2000 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

### SBC to meet in Nashville, Greensboro

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee voted Feb. 19 to make a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention that Nashville be adopted as the site for the 2005 annual meeting of the SBC and Greensboro, N.C. for the 2006 meeting. The recommendations will be presented at the SBC's June 11-12 annual meeting in St. The Nashville meeting will be held in the Gaylord Entertainment Center and the Nashville Convention Center. The Executive Committee will also recommend the SBC annual meeting for 2006 be held in Greensboro, N.C., but no further details were released. The SBC's last annual meeting in North Carolina was in 1916 when messengers gathered in Asheville.



Ground breaking ceremonies at Belden Church, Lee Association

Ground breaking ceremonies were held recently for the new 800-seat worship center now under construction at Belden Church, Lee Association. Construction is expected to be completed in 18 months. Pictured (from left) are Tim Norris, deacon; Don Scott and Larry Cole, executive building committee; Don Baggett, pastor; Scott Rogers, assistant pastor; and Mark Brann and Tommy Carruth, executive building committee.

First Church, Chicora, held a special service officially dedicating the Dr. James L. Mashburn Jr. Memorial Library on Feb. 10. Following the dedication service, those attending were invited to tour the new library located in the educational wing of the church. The Mashburn family officially opened the library with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The library consists of a sitting room, multimedia station, computer center, and conference room. Many other individuals and families with ties to the church have presented gifts and placed memorials in memory and honor of their family members. Pictured are Gina Mashburn, wife of the late James Mashburn; James and Frances Mashburn, parents; and David Roberson, pastor of First Church.



G. Mashburn, J. Mashburn, F. Mashburn, and Roberson

**Concert of Praise** will be presented by Sue Dodge at Country Woods Church, Byram, on March 10 at 6 p.m. For additional information, call (601) 371-7955.

**The Talley Trio** will be in concert at First Church, Fulton, on March 3 at 6 p.m. Tommy Winders is pastor. For additional information, call (662) 862-3207.

**Legacy Five and 2nd Mile** will be in concert at Northcrest Church, Meridian, March 7 at 7 p.m. For additional information call the church at (601) 482-3498.

**CHOICES A Life Altering Encounter** will be held at Country Woods Church, Byram, March 21, 22, and 24. For additional information, call (601) 371-7955.

**A Single young adult reunion** will be held at Magnolia Church, Laurel, March 2 at 4 p.m. For additional information, call Gail James at (601) 649-7878.

**A new site** of Christian Women's Job Corps will be located on the India Nunnery Campus of the Baptist Children's Village. Open house is planned for March 1, 10 a.m., at the Merrill Administration Building, 805 Flag Chapel Drive, Jackson. For those interested in attending, contact Chrystelle Thames at (601) 922-2242.

**Iglesia Maravilloso Salvador** (Wonderful Savior Church) will begin holding services March 3 in Cleveland in an older church building recently purchased by First Church, Cleveland. Calvary Chapel at Parchman will sponsor this new work with the cooperation of First Church, and the Calvary pastor, Joe Young, who also is leading the Hispanic congregation and preaching between two services at Parchman each Sunday.

**Groundbreaking services** for the new multi-purpose building at Bethlehem Church, Walnut, were held on Nov. 17. A fellowship breakfast was held before the service. This ministry building has for its overall completion date the summer of 2002. Bethlehem Church was founded in 1897. J. Hugh Nelson, the oldest church member at age 91, threw the first shovel of dirt. Keith D. Swartz is pastor.



**GAs of Immanuel Church, Vicksburg**, collected over 100 canned goods for the needy during the holidays. Wendy Banks is the GA leader. Billy Brumfield is pastor. Pictured (from left, bottom row) are Claire Ray and Brittany Stauts; (second row) Savanna Pritchard, Samantha Raner, Evie Hilderbrand, Kristina Carroll, Sallie Ray; (back row) Haley Ray, Tiffany Shiers, Jessica McCool, Leah Emerson, Megan Stauts, Tiffany Carroll, Anna Templeton, and Cathy Gordon, assistant leader.

## REVIVAL DATES

**Cedar Grove, Leake Association:** March 1-3; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Doland Babb, music; Benji Sessums, pastor.

**Glade, Laurel:** March 3-6; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, evangelist and singer; Mike Thompson, pastor.

**Calvary, Pascagoula:** March 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Archie W. England, professor at New Orleans Seminary, evangelist; Paul Young, pastor of County Line Church, Laurel, music; Clint Miller, pastor.

**Sylva Rena, Water Valley:** March 10-13; supper, March 9, 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 10:30 a.m., lunch, and 7 p.m.; Charles Smith, Duncan, evangelist; Steve Walker, Pinola, music; David Sapp, pastor.

**Old Union, Shannon:** March 24-27; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Albert Wilkerson, Ripley, evangelist; Steven White, Memphis, Tenn., music; Kenneth Kelly, pastor.

**First, Purvis:** March 31-April 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Jackie Kay, evangelist; Curtis Williams, pastor.

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# Missionary seeing campuses transformed

DALLAS, Texas - In college, Norman Flowers dreamed of singing opera under the bright lights of New York City. Now, nothing makes him happier than teaching a bunch of Texas teenagers how to fish.

Don't look for Flowers sitting on a boat on a lake or standing on a river shore. When he helps teenagers fish, he helps them where it matters most — on their school campuses.

"When an eighth grade boy starts a campus club right before the end of the school year and starts with 35 kids the first week, and at the fourth week there are over 180 students and some students accept Christ, that's awesome," said Flowers, a national campus evangelism missionary for the North American Mission Board (NAMB). "That's what keeps me going."

Flowers and his wife, Lori, are among the featured missionaries for the North American Mission Board's 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, scheduled for March 3-10.

Flowers works on a Texas mission field that includes 3,248 junior and senior high schools. With nearly 2.2 million students to reach, Flowers has no aspirations of doing it alone. That's where FiSH! comes in.

FiSH! is a strategy — developed by the interdenominational ministry "Campus Revolution in close partnership with NAMB — that uses student-led Christian clubs to evangelize their campuses. The clubs follow a four-week cycle: Focus week, Inspiration week, Share week, and Hook week.



GO FISH! — Norman Flowers (right) talks with student Jonathan Braun after speaking with the youth at First Church of Rockwall, Texas. Photo By Gibbs Frazier.

During that time, students prepare spiritually, pray for non-Christian friends and share their testimonies. Best of all, students do it on their own.

"FiSH! is geared to be downloaded and started by students," Flowers said. This is important, he emphasized, because 75% of Texas Baptist churches do not have youth ministers and 80% have an average attendance of 100 people or fewer.

"A student can go into the [www.studentz.com/fish](http://www.studentz.com/fish) Web site and be equipped and empowered because they have all the materials they need," Flowers said, adding that all materials can be downloaded for free.

Since May 2000, when Flowers started as a NAMB missionary, he has heard and been a part of some exciting stories.

- A boy from Wall, Texas, downloaded FiSH! materials and began a club that averaged 30 to 40 in attendance at a school of 250. Ten students made professions of faith.

- Two girls from the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex raised money to buy stamps and stationery to write evangelistic letters to all 1,800 students in their school.

- A girl from an El Paso high school started a club with just 10 to 15 teenagers that now must meet in the gym because it is one of the largest on campus.

"The steps these kids take to take up the challenge is phenomenal," Flowers said.

Although 1,000 Texas schools have clubs using FiSH!, Flowers' goal is to have a "FiSHing" club at every school in the state. If summer 2001 is any indication, he might be well on his way to reaching that goal. Flowers spoke at 17 youth camps and a youth evangelism conference in San Antonio and helped train 4,000 students at a Super Summer Leadership School, getting the word about FiSH! to about 25,000 young people. More than 2,000 students made commitments to start a FiSH! campus ministry during the summer.

"About halfway through my presentation, I can see that the light goes on and the students start thinking, 'We can do this. This is awesome,'" Flowers said.

"These students are asking, 'Where do we start? What do we do?'" he added.

Many young people have a passion to reach others for Christ, Flowers said citing research that shows students today are the most spiritually active in years.

"They're looking for something to live for," he said. The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 have only intensified that feeling.

"Since the 11th, there's a hunger for why, there's a hunger for how," he said. "If students are given a direction and a plan, they're going for it."

While FiSH! is one of the main strategies Flowers uses, it is not the only one. Flowers also desires that every Texas school be adopted by at least one of the 6,800 Texas Baptist churches. In adopting a school, a church commits to praying that each student at the school will be impacted by God's love and to encouraging students in the church to be campus missionaries.

Flowers already has seen adult Christians prayer-walking at schools. Other churches have used the yearbook strategy, in which student photos from the school's yearbook are cut out and distributed to church members. The church members then pray for the students throughout the school year.

Flowers also is a resource provider and encourager for teenagers and youth ministers. Whether students need legal assistance in starting a club, encouragement, or fresh ideas, Flowers is available to help. He mentors old and new youth ministers and helps them as they undertake the task of reaching students for Christ and discipling them.

He's also working with others to develop more materials for students to use in sharing their faith.

With a whirlwind of a first year behind him, Flowers is ready for what lies ahead.

"Now there's a direction," he said. "It's kind of like we're just beginning."



## Miss. Teen chosen as Panelist

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Jennifer Martin, a member of First Church, Stonewall, is one of six young women from six states who have been tapped by Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) to serve on the 2002 National Acteens Panel and as 2002 Top Teens. The youths were selected by national WMU staff from Acteens members nationwide who applied to serve on the national panel. Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12. Selected to serve with Martin were Nicole Beatty, First Church, Humble, Texas; Karla Kerr, First Church, Smithville, Mo.; Regina Bishop, First Church, Deming, N.M.; Stephanie Irwin, Tallwood Church, Houston; and Meagan Smith, First Church, Woodway, Texas. During 2002, Acteens Panelists will provide leadership in state and associational WMU-related meetings. Panelists also will serve as pages at the June 9-10 WMU Annual Meeting and June 11-12 Southern Baptist Convention, both in St. Louis.

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CROSSETT, ARK.,** is seeking a full-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to 701 Main Street, Crossett, AR 71635.

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**CHRISTIAN CRUISE FROM NEW ORLEANS,** January 2003. 5 nights with Adrian Rogers, David Jeremiah, Squire Parsons, Babbie Mason, and more. (601) 835-0467 for brochures.

**THE MARSHALL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** in Alabama is accepting resumes for a director of missions. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Marshall Baptist Association, 3555 AL Hwy 69 W., Guntersville, AL 35976. Deadline is March 1, 2002.

**CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth. MRE degree required and some experience preferred. Church has new education facilities, family life center, and provides excellent benefits and salary package. Send resumes to Centreville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Centreville, AL 35042.

### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ALTA WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH,** Jackson, Miss., is now accepting applications for the position of church organist. The position will be available May 12, 2002. Please submit resume to: Music Committee, Alta Woods Baptist Church, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS 39204.

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR** weekday ministry program. Approximately 180 children. Please forward resume and salary requirements to: Assistant Director Position, 302 West Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

**MID-SIZED CHURCH** seeking part-time minister of music at Steep Hollow Baptist

Church, Poplarville, Miss. 2 Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

**PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER** at Bayou View Baptist Church, Gulfport. A heart for children is a must. Contact church office at (228) 863-2482 or [www.bayouview.org](http://www.bayouview.org).

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

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## Romanians to reconcile church's past

WASHINGTON (BP) — Seeking to heal divisive political history within its ranks, the Baptist Union of Romania has decided reconciliation with its communist past is better than seeking political or legal judgments against its own people. The initiative is specifically directed at pastors who may have cooperated with the secret police during the years of communism in which many Baptist pastors and people were persecuted. One of those persecuted was Paul Negrut, now president of the Baptist Union. Negrut, in a visit to the Baptist World Alliance Feb. 5, reported that Romanian Baptists have agreed to deal with their communist past in a biblical, pastoral way. Each pastor who may have cooperated with the secret police has been asked to declare the facts, Negrut said. "Once that is done, there will be no judicial decision, but we will deal with this pastorally and forgive the person and move on," he said. "Because of this, there is no tension from the past and we can focus on evangelism and church growth as our priority."



The Pascales

Antonio Pascale was awarded a Service Award at Homecoming activities recently held at William Carey College. The Service Award recognizes the recipient's dedication to community service. Pascale, a 1970 graduate of Carey, has volunteered in a leper colony in

Thailand and has worked with the Red Cross in south Mississippi during times of need. An active supporter of the Special Olympics, Pascale supports the Abbie Rogers Civitan Camp and Christian Services. He is a member of the Pine Belt Enlisted Men's Club

and serves as troop sponsor for the Boy Scouts. Pictured with Pascale (left) is his wife Janet.

Donald Higginbotham, professor of history at University of North Carolina, will be speaking on George Washington the Unifier, 7 p.m., March 5, in the Grand Hall in B.C. Rogers Student Center on the Mississippi College (MC) campus. Ron Howard, dean of Arts and Science at MC, describes Higginbotham as a world class historian whose work has transformed our understanding of early American history. Higginbotham bridges the gap between the professional historian and popular lecturer. The lecture will speak to the significance of George Washington to the emergence of a sense of American nationhood.



Higginbotham

Mississippi College Department of Music will present Daniel J. Fenn in a senior organ recital on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. The recital will be held at Alta Woods Church, Jackson.

The national organization of the American Chemical Society (ACS) will hold its annual awards banquet April 7 in Orlando, Fla. The Mississippi College (MC) chapter of the Student Affiliates will receive a 2001 Honorable Mention Chapter Award. This award is one of 155 awards given by the national ACS organization, from the more than 2000 chapters nationwide. Attending the awards banquet will be the current officers of the MC chapter, Melissa Bagwell, president; Karen Hand, vice-president; and Kathryn Sullivan, secretary. Professors attending the conference are David Magers, Ed Valente, and Anthony Dribben of the MC Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

## NOBTS bivo music class open for enrollment

March 25 begins the fourth of eight courses at nine locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

The eight courses are: Song Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music; Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music; Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff

Relations; Survey of Music Resources; and Class Voice.

These courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length.

The cycle of courses is scheduled over a two-year

period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite. Each student who completes the eight courses earns a Church Music Certificate from New Orleans Seminary plus a credit of eight hours toward an on campus degree program.

There is a one-time registration fee of \$25. The cost of each course is \$85.

Scholarships are available for first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

The fourth course, Reading Music: Harmony/Melody, will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Emmanuel Church, Greenville — beginning March 25; 7-9 p.m.; Bobby Whittington, teacher.

- Broadmoor Church, Jackson — beginning March 25; 7-9 p.m.; Jimmy McCaleb, teacher.

- First Church, Columbus — beginning March 25; 7-9 p.m.; Bobby Sanderson, teacher.

- First Church, Purvis — beginning March 25; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; James Hayes, teacher.

- First Church, Booneville — beginning March 25; 7-9 p.m.; LuAnne Ford, teacher.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian — beginning March 25; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.; Buddy McElroy, teacher.

- Hernando Church, Hernando — beginning March 25; 7-9 p.m.; Barry Tweedy, teacher.

- Tri-County Associational Building, Columbia — beginning March 26; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Kenny Adams, teacher.

- Meadville Church, Meadville — beginning March 26; 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Chuck McMinn, teacher.

These classes could be offered at other locations in the state also, where 8-10 students are interested in enrolling.

For more information, contact Jimmy McCaleb (601) 292-3273 or (800) 748-1651, ext. 273.

## Second quarter SS writers selected

The Baptist Record is pleased to announce that Sandra Gunn, a member of First Church, Biloxi, and Robin Brumfield, interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest, will serve as Sunday lesson writers for the next three months.



Gunn

Gunn, who will be writing the Family Bible Study lessons, is a native of the Tylertown area and is a graduate of Topeka-Tilton High School. She holds a bachelor of arts degree from Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton, and is the wife of Frank Gunn, pastor emeritus of First Church, Biloxi.

Sandra Gunn has served in a number of capacities connected with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, including as a member of the Committee on the Order of Business, the Committee on Nominations, and the Resolutions Committee.

She is presently serving as an at-large member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and was elected last fall to a one-year term as secretary of the board. She is also a member of the board's executive committee.

The Gunns have three children and eight grandchildren.

Brumfield, who will be writing the Explore the Bible lessons, is a native of Pittsburg, Texas. He is a 1983 graduate of Talbot Theological Seminary with a master of divinity degree,

and a 1992 graduate of Luther Rice Seminary with a doctor of ministry degree.

He was licensed to preach by Forest Church, Forest, and ordained by Hopewell Church, Lake. His bivocational ministry began in 1988 and continues today. He has served as interim pastor at Goodwater Church, Forest, since April 1996.

Brumfield and his wife Zoe have two sons.

The Baptist Record strives each quarter to recruit Sunday School writers that exemplify Mississippi Baptists at their best. Staffers and lay members of cooperating Mississippi Baptist churches can apply to write Sunday School lessons by contacting Tony Martin, associate editor, The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: tmartin@mbcb.org. Good writing skills are a must.



Brumfield

## STAFF CHANGES

Wyatte Church, Northwest Association, has called Scott Rogers as pastor effective Feb. 10. A native of Corinth, his previous place of service was at Belden Church, Lee Association.



Rogers

Lighthouse Church, Richland, has called Randy

Duke of Laurel as bivocational pastor, effective Jan. 6.

Jerry Guess has accepted the pastorate of Millport Church, Millport, Ala., effective Dec. 9. Guess can be contacted at P. O. Box 547, Millport, AL 35576 or call (205) 662-4977.



Duke



# LifeWay trustees approve technology post

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Trustees for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention met Feb. 11-12 and approved creation of a division for technology, effective March 1, and elected Tim Vineyard, director of LifeWay's e-business group as vice president of the new division and chief information officer.

Ted Warren, executive vice president and chief operating officer, told trustees the agency's first quarter revenues of \$103.1 million were ahead of the same period in fiscal 2001 by 6.8%, but under budget by 1.6%. However, he reported funds provided from operations, or money for reinvestment in ministry expansion after all expenses have been paid, were up \$519,000 or 8.3% from the same time last year.

"During a time of recession, that is really a blessing from the Lord," he said.

Warren cited among challenges for the year economic recession and world economics, the start-up of LifeWay Church Resources' new organization and initiatives, continuing work on the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation and conference center revitalization.

A seasonal, two-tiered room rate structure for LifeWay Conference Centers at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C., was approved to be phased in during the 2003 fiscal year. The new structure, offering vacation rates for persons not attending a conference and rates for event participants, is

designed to provide greater value to guests and to match hospitality industry standards.

Mike Arrington, vice president of LifeWay's corporate affairs division, which includes responsibility for conference centers, told trustees the centers at Glorieta, N.M., and Ridgecrest, N.C. hosted 96,928

guests in 2001, including 1,283 campers at Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and Camp Crestridge for Girls, both at Ridgecrest.

He said 4,400 spiritual decisions were recorded, including almost 400 professions of faith.

In the revitalization of conference centers, Arrington reported completion at Ridgecrest of the Rutland Chapel in February and a new 120-room hotel with conference space set for a fall opening. At Glorieta, the renovation of the Chaparral Hotel has been completed, along with a newly designed recreation field, among other improvements.

Luis Aranguren, senior vice president of LifeWay International, told trustees that in 2001 LifeWay increased the number of international distributors of Broadman & Holman, Church Resources and Spanish products by 23% to 530 in 65 countries. Additionally, Aranguren said workshops were conducted in 33 countries training 34,812 pastors and leaders from 7,788 churches to use LifeWay products.

LifeWay also is training resident national consultants, who live in their countries and who are contract workers, he said.



DISCUSSING MINISTRY — LifeWay Christian Resources Trustee Roger Willmore (left), pastor of First Church, Weaver, Ala., speaks with Louis Hanks, director of Publishing in the Church Resources division, about Sunday School products. Trustees met in Nashville for their semi-annual meeting, Feb. 11-12. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

## Draper: LifeWay addressing 'new world' needs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — God prepared the way for LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to minister in a new world even before terrorists attacked the United States last year, LifeWay's President James T. Draper Jr., told trustees in their semiannual meeting Feb. 11-12.

"Five months ago today, we watched the horrible events of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 unfold as we attempted to keep at least part of our focus on the trustee meeting at Glorieta," Draper recounted. "During that seemingly endless, exhausting day, I heard several of you comment that we had witnessed the world change. We recognized that our lives would never be the same, though none of us could have known the specifics of the changes we would experience."

"Today, we have greater insights into the new world in which we find ourselves," Draper said. "However, our understanding of what has and is taking place in the aftermath of the worst terrorist acts in our time will continue to unfold in the months and years ahead."

Draper said while LifeWay has developed new ministry resources since the terrorist attacks that others were already in process.

"I believe God went ahead of us, directing us into new paths and preparing us to be effective amid changed circumstances that had not yet taken place," he said.

Among resources provided after the attacks were those offered through LifeWay's website, [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

"Within 60 minutes of the first plane striking the World Trade Center, text, photos, and a call to prayer were posted on our website," he said. "Our e-business group worked with LifeWay Church Resources to provide alternative, crisis-related Bible study lesson plans. In the first two weeks, the eight lessons were downloaded more than 218,000 times, and an additional 6,300 persons viewed them online."

By late September, he continued, a spe-

cial section of the site, "Ministering in Crisis," had been created to equip Christian leaders with resources such as articles on "Helping Those Who Hurt," "Does Someone Need Your Ears?" and many others. These articles have been viewed almost 31,000 times.

By early December, a special section of the website was created, "In God We Trust: Transforming America Through Prayer and Revival," offering multiple resources on prayer, fasting, and revival. More than 10,000 pages have been viewed, along with 1,000 downloads of free material.

Other such resources he cited include the December issue of LifeWay's Facts & Trends, redesigned to include a special section on the need for prayer and revival; the joint sponsorship with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the SBC Executive Committee of a full-page ad offering hope to readers of USA Today; the collection of more than \$20,000 by LifeWay employees and matched by LifeWay for a total exceeding \$40,000 to support the ministry efforts of NAMB; displays of relevant resources on Islam, prayer and related topics in LifeWay Christian Stores, along with the distribution of free bookmarks with the theme of prayer for the nation and the world; and the publication by Broadman & Holman of a small book by D. James Kennedy, "Why Was America Attacked?"

More impressive, Draper said, are the ways God led LifeWay to take actions before Sept. 11.

"We did not know terrorism would soon dominate our thoughts and our prayers, but God did. We did not know that fear would become a constant companion of our children, but the Lord knew. We did not know people would need a word of hope as never before in their lives. We did not know that churches would suddenly find themselves seeking to minister in a new world. We did not know we would need to be more effective than ever before

in identifying the needs of people and churches and meeting those needs," he said. "Our Lord knew all of these things and he was at work at LifeWay and many other places, preparing his people to serve and minister."

"If we hadn't launched FAITH as a tool to equip laypeople to witness and minister four years ago last month, we would need to do so today," Draper added. "FAITH continues to grow as approximately 51,000 people in more than 7,800 churches have been trained in clinics. We know even more have been trained, but not all churches have reported these figures. Orders for more than 200,000 journals indicate that the total number of persons trained is perhaps four times what we have recorded."



MAKING A POINT — LifeWay Christian Resources President James T. Draper Jr. (left) and John Kramp (center), director of Church Ministry Solutions for LifeWay Church Resources Division, talk with LifeWay Trustee D.L. Lowrie, senior pastor of First Church, Lubbock, Texas. Lowrie rotated off the trustee board this term following eight years of service. Trustees met in Nashville for their semi-annual meeting, Feb. 11-12. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.  
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death.  
(I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Knowing God

John 14:1-14

By Sandra Gunn

How can I know God? Webster gives one definition of *know* as to have immediate experience of; to be acquainted with.

Knowing God sounds impossible and out of reach for us. There is a time for us when we have to believe what we cannot prove.

The disciples were facing a time such as this. Their world, as they knew it, would be shattered. Jesus had them gathered in the Upper Room, obviously in a secluded place, where there would be no distractions. He spoke with them intimately, lovingly, and tenderly.

Jesus, in his own way, is telling them what is about to

happen. He indicated to them that no matter what the circumstances, they must not be troubled deep in their hearts.

Jesus had such an insight into their hearts that he knew their faith had to be strengthened. He exhorted them to trust him — just as he trusted the Father. He further reassured them that he would make heaven ready for them, that there would be room for them all, and that he wanted them there with him.

Thomas then speaks for all of us! He had to be sure. He expressed his doubts and confusion. This question prompted one of the greatest truths ever uttered by our Lord. Jesus is the



Gunn

way to God! He is the one and only way to fellowship with God. Jesus is Truth! He is perfect Truth. By the words of his own mouth, he is the Life. Men have in Jesus the only way to God.

Once we accept him this way, then we have truth and life. In fact, Jesus indicates by the very next statement that he is the only way to God, for he says, no one comes to the Father, but through me (John 14:6).

The knowing of God, which Jesus talks about in the next verses, comes from knowing Jesus. These men had spent three years with him, and still did not know truly who he was. Would you and I have been the same? In Mark 12:30, Jesus told the scribe that the greatest commandment is, *And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

All these are tied together in such a way that it is difficult to separate one from the other. The more we trust, love, and believe him the better we know him. Since Jesus gave this as the greatest commandment, then this teaching is vital and necessary for our everyday living. Since Jesus and God are one, anything we learn about Jesus will teach us about the Father. God has given us all that we need to learn about him, his character, and his ways. Jesus was essentially telling his disciples to listen to him, to look at him, and believe!

Now we come to what Jesus says our belief in him will enable us to do. Loving him, emulating him, striving to be more like him, having the mind of Christ — all will empower us through his Spirit to do the things Jesus did, and more!

The early Christians were sent out into places where Jesus had not physically been. The message of the cross was theirs to take to the world. It is

ours to take to our world. This message will accomplish more than Jesus could during the 33 years of his life on this earth. We have the added help of the Holy Spirit.

The great promise that Jesus gives all of us is that whatever we ask in his name, he will do! The qualification of that promise is to ask in his name and to glorify the Father.

We need to always test our praying by asking, Can I pray this in the name of Jesus and will the answer glorify God? We must pray and ask if Jesus were praying and asking. I wonder how many of our prayers would hold up under this test.

How well do we really know God? We must strive every day to make this goal first and foremost in our lives. God wants us to know him, and he has provided the way for this to be accomplished through Jesus, his Son.

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Praise God

Ephesians 1:1-14

By Robin Brumfield

This quarter we will take a verse-by-verse look at Ephesians. Before we investigate this week's lesson, let's get a feel for the book of Ephesians. It is divided into three units: why God created his new people, what he intends for them, and what he expects from them. Now, for this week's study.

This lesson's theme begins with the praise Paul offered to God and highlights what God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) has done to bring praise to himself.

The emphasis, though, is on God's creation of the church to bring praise to himself. Adults are to praise God for what he has done in creating his new people.

This week's lesson has four main points. The first comes from Ephesians 1:1-2. Here we see the greetings. Besides establishing the tone of the letter, the greetings prepare the reader for several key ideas discussed in verses 3-14. The fatherhood of God, the grace of God, and the lordship of Jesus are key concepts that reappear in verses 3-14. These call for Christians to praise God.

The second main point comes from Ephesians 1:3-6 and is titled, Praise God the Father. Praise in verse 3 can also be translated blessed (KJV). In this verse the main idea is a call to praise God for his blessings. The interpretations of "chose" in verse 4 and "predestined" in



Brumfield

verse 5 have two common interpretations. One emphasizes that salvation depends entirely on God.

The other emphasizes that God has already decided who will be saved and who will not be saved. Election is God's sovereign work of choosing some to believe as we see in Ephesians 1:11.

Salvation is a work of God, not man (see Ephesians 2:8-9). An application of these verses is that God deserves our praise for taking the initiative in bringing people to salvation in Christ.

The third main point comes from Ephesians 1:7-12 and is titled, Praise God the Son. The terms "redemption" in verse 7, "mystery" in verse 9, and "bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head" in verse 10 need further explanation. These ideas will be discussed in 3:1-13, so hang on tight until then.

Notice that to be put into effect in verse 10, dispensation (KJV) translates a Greek word that can also mean stewardship or administration. The idea is that God has a plan for his new people, is working according to that plan, and will see that it is accomplished.

Notice the repetitive use of the praise of his glory. Thus, in this view God has created the church for his praise. This praise that he wants to receive is an inheritance from those who belong to him.

In creating his new people, God has acted out of his grace to offer redemption through the death of Jesus Christ. An application of these verses is that God deserves our praise for what Jesus Christ has done to make salvation possible.

The fourth main point comes from Ephesians 1:13-14 and is titled, Praise God the Holy Spirit. God's spiritual blessings are based on the sovereign election of the Father, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, and

the seal of the Holy Spirit.

The last part of verse 13 is literally, *They were sealed in him [Christ] with the Holy Spirit of promise.* God is the one who seals, Christ is the sphere in which the seal is done, and the Holy Spirit is the instrument in which the seal is done.

Notice redemption in verse 14. This redemption is not the release from the guilt feelings of sin mentioned in Ephesians 1:7. Instead, this is the believers' eternal, ultimate release from the presence of sin.

Notice at the end of verse 14 the words to the praise of his glory. What a wonderful way to end each section of Scripture — to the praise of his glory. An application of these verses is that God deserves our praise for the Holy Spirit's work as the guarantee of our salvation.

Focus on our emphasis for this week God's creation of the church is bringing praise to himself.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



for Christian Living

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Issue 2

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## WATCH OUT FOR THE RABID RABBIT: The Allure of Sex Outside of Marriage

A friend of mine grew up near Miami where his parents often took him to the dog races. As the dogs lined up in the starting gate ready to run their hearts out, an artificial rabbit would come around the track for the dogs to chase.

The announcer shouted, "Here comes Rusty!" and the dogs would chase that fake rabbit as fast as they could. Unfortunately, sometimes the dogs would catch the rabbit and discover that it wasn't real. These dogs would never chase Rusty again. They were ruined.

Many times people spend their lives chasing rabbits only to find out that when they finally claim their prize, it is not what they thought it would be. All their time and energy had been spent up to that point trying to achieve their goal only to be disappointed or heartbroken. Even worse, some people spend their lives chasing fake rabbits to never catch them. What a wasted life!

For many people, the issue of sex outside of marriage is a rabbit they are chasing. Some want to catch it, some just intend to run fast enough to get a close look at it, and some catch it. Those who do catch the rabbit are deeply hurt.



Yancey

For married adults, the allure of a sexual relationship with someone other than one's spouse must be weighed against the dire consequences of that action. For example, the pain of deliberately sinning against God, the pain of divorce, separation from one's spouse, distraught children, loss of reputation, financial difficulties, emotional scars, and possible contraction of sexually transmitted diseases, are all high prices to pay.

Obviously adultery is not the only cause of broken homes, but it is a leading factor in many divorce cases. The effects of a selfish act can be harmful to children for years to come.

Teenagers are tempted from every area of society to experiment sexually. From a scantily clad Brittney to sex being portrayed in 70% of prime time television shows, young people are growing up in an environment of open sexuality.

Yet many are choosing not to chase the rabbit of pre-marital sex. Thanks to many caring moms and dads, abstinence programs, youth ministers, and teens that have a desire to be pure before God, the future is brighter for all of us.

### STATISTICS:

According to the U.S. News and World Report, Mississippi leads the nation in percent of total births to teens with 20%. Mississippi is second to Washington D.C. in percent of births to teenagers who were already mothers with 24.4%.  
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Because of extramarital sex and other reasons, the family is deteriorating in America. Baptist Press recorded that:

- ♦ one-third of live births occur out of wedlock.
- ♦ more marriages will be dissolved by divorce than death this year.
- ♦ 50% of children in public schools come from single parent homes, with a "300% greater chance for a negative life outcome."
- ♦ 50% of couples filing for divorce cohabitated before marriage.
- ♦ the majority of high school students now believe that living together and even having a child could be the best way to head toward marriage.

### WHAT'S WRONG WITH HAVING SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE?

Nearly two-thirds of American teenagers surveyed who have had sexual intercourse wish they had waited, according to a poll released on June 30, 2000.<sup>1</sup>

Okay, so you didn't get pregnant, you didn't get AIDS... Why is it that you feel so bad about having had sex? It is because no one has invented a contraceptive against getting hurt.

*How many teens who had sex still have each other?*

What's wrong with having sex with someone you love so much? Especially when you are sure it will last forever? Well, most teenage relationships don't last. Just because their bodies were ready for sex doesn't mean their hearts and their minds were.

*Getting pregnant and catching diseases aren't the only ways that sex can hurt you.*

Contraceptives fail more often than you probably imagine. In fact, there's no such thing as completely "safe sex." But even if you are "lucky," premarital sex can leave emotional scars that you'll feel for the rest of your life.

*You may have thought it was love, but it was really just sex.*

When you're having sex with someone, it's hard to tell what you love — the person or the sex. So it's easy to wind up in a relationship, or even a marriage, with someone who is wrong for you. Waiting to have sex lets you find out if it's really someone you can love.

*Having sex is no guarantee you'll stay together.*

Lots of teenagers give in and have sex to "keep" someone. And then that person leaves anyway. If you have to have sex to keep someone you love — is that person really worth keeping?

*After you've had sex with someone, breaking up hurts twice as bad.*

When you trust someone completely and then that person walks away, you'll feel used in a way you never have before. After all, you can have sex the rest of your life, but you can only give away your virginity once. If you give it to the wrong person, it won't take a baby or a disease to make you feel terrible. So think about waiting. You may be surprised at how good it can feel.<sup>2</sup>

### DEFINITION: ABSTINENCE

**Abstinence** — the act of voluntarily doing without some or all food, drink, or other pleasures.

Abstinence is the only guaranteed way to avoid pregnancy, STD's, and many other problems associated with premarital sex. Alice Kalso wrote a poem entitled THE FREEDOMS OF ABSTINENCE that is worth sharing:

### THE FREEDOMS OF ABSTINENCE

- Freedom from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Freedom from the problems of birth control.
- Freedom from the pressure to marry too soon.
- Freedom from the pain of giving your baby up for adoption.
- Freedom from abortion.
- Freedom from exploitation by others.
- Freedom from the doubt, guilt, disappointment, worry, and rejection that comes with a sexual affair.
- Freedom to be in control of your body.
- Freedom to get to know your dating partner as a person.
- Freedom to plan for the future and for the kind of life you want to live.
- Freedom to respect yourself.
- Freedom to be unselfish: not taking pleasure in sex at the expense of your boyfriend/girlfriend.
- Freedom to look forward to marriage and choose to be chosen by the kind of person you will want for the mother or father of your children, without worrying about his/her learning of your sexual past.
- Freedom to enjoy being a teenager, with many friends, and boy/girl relationships.
- Freedom from severe pain when you break up.
- Freedom to form a strong marriage bond with one person only for life. Such couples can trust each other to be sexually faithful in marriage because both of them have practiced resisting sexual temptation before marriage.
- Freedom to look back on your high school dating experiences, after you've grown up, with pleasure and no shame.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Genesis 2:23-25

1 Corinthians 6:13b-15, 18-20

1 Corinthians 13:4-13

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

Hebrews 13:4

### Sources:

<sup>1</sup> The Washington Times. "Most Teenagers Regret Having Sex Early, Poll Finds." By Daniele Eubanks, July 10-16, 2000.

<sup>2</sup> "You didn't get pregnant..." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>3</sup> "The Freedoms of Abstinence." Distributed by Crisis Pregnancy Center, Clarksdale, Mississippi, by Alice Kalso.

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at rwood@mbcb.org. Include your name, address, phone number, and church name.



# Tennesseans serving long way from home

CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I., Canada — Joe and Linda Ledford had spent their entire lives in Elizabethton, Tenn. Joe was the local bureau chief for the Johnson City Press, and Linda had her own hair salon. It was home, but then God began to work in their lives and he hasn't stopped yet.

They're now volunteer missionaries in the eastern Canadian province of Prince Edward Island, working to strengthen the ministries of

Community Baptist Church in Charlottetown and helping plant new mission congregations through their gift of children's ministry.

"I never understood what people meant when they said 'I was called to do this' until I experienced it firsthand," Joe said, describing how the sacrifices of ministry just don't seem as difficult when they are accompanied by the assurance that God wants them there.

"At the same time God gave us the call he gave us the peace to do what he asked us to do," he said. "I have experienced in that an intense joy, and I think Linda would say the same thing."

The Ledfords are among the missionaries featured during the 2002 Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 3-10.

Their path to full-time missions service followed a familiar pattern, growing from active church membership to increasing responsibility within and outside church walls.

With no children of

their own, the Ledfords found themselves heavily involved a few years ago in leading backyard Bible clubs and other children's ministries in the depressed areas of their community.

They eventually decided to make their commitment official by appointment as "tentmaker" volunteers through the North American Mission Board's Mission Service Corps (MSC) strategy, earning a living through their professions while serving bi-vocationally through their local association.

"I think we just grew up with missions, and then we became missionaries in our hometown," said Linda. "When we look back now and see, at the time it was happening to us we didn't see it as parts of a whole, but now we can say, 'Oh yes, I can see how that was preparing me for this now.'"

They went through a period of questioning all that would be involved in leaving their home, their jobs, and their entire lifestyle to go to Canada, but through a continued series of confirming circumstances they became absolutely convinced that the call was from God. The only question then became one of obedience.

"It was scary to think about leaving your family, home, business and your whole culture and go somewhere else, but it was more frightening not to go," said Joe.

It is through their expertise in children's ministry that the Ledfords have found themselves leading what has become a major venture into church planting.

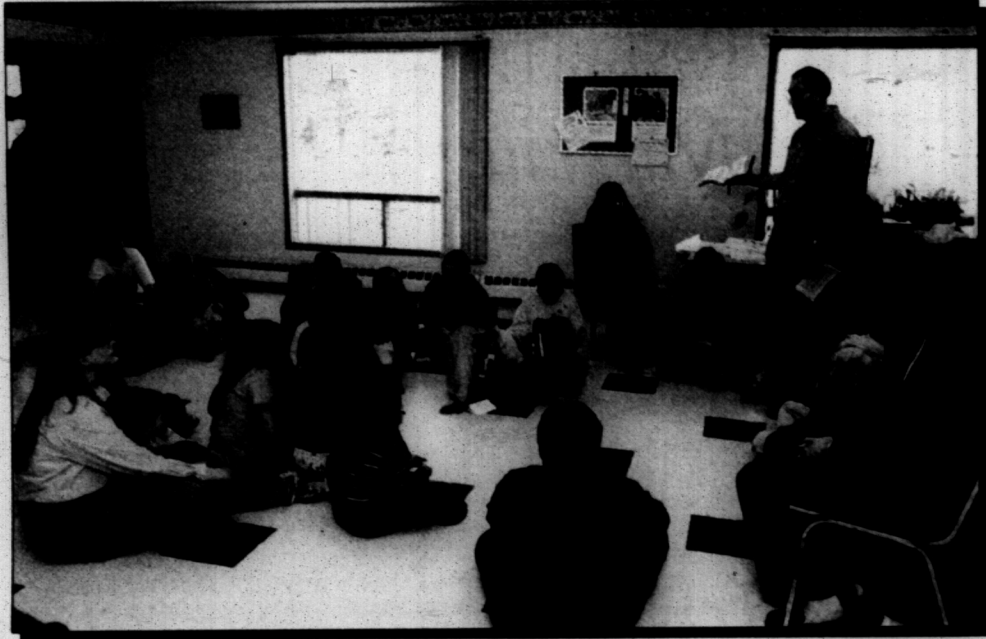
"When we first went into the community our hearts just kind of jumped," said Joe, "because we recognized all of the signs of children — one-parent families, low-income families, multi-family housing. That's what we had been doing in Tennessee."

The Ledfords' original eight months ended long ago, of course, but they now say they plan to stay until God leads otherwise. An emphasis throughout their ministry has been on discipling and training others, so they are confident that when they do leave God will have others prepared to continue the work.

"God gives us the things day by day to do the things he needs us to do," Joe said.

"And he gives us the equipment to do it."

ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTERN OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



SHOWING THE WAY — Joe (standing) and Linda (seated far left) Ledford are leaders of a team that started King's Way, a children's ministry-based mission congregation in Montague, Prince Edward Island. (Photo By James Dotson)

## Language missions strategist tackles 159 groups

SEATTLE — Thirty percent of the 1.5 million households in Metro Seattle are ethnic — 159 different language groups.

That's Gihwang Shin's mission field. Language new work strategist for Puget Sound Baptist Association, he's a featured missionary, with his wife, Hye Sun, for the North American Mission Board's 2002 Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer, scheduled for March 3-10.

Shin says his first responsibility is to be Christian. He's also the husband of Hye Sun — Gift of Grace — and father of three children, each named Grace — Hye Kang (River of Grace) is 10; Hye Woo (Rain of Grace), 4; and Hye Song (Song of Grace), 18 months.

Hye Sun is a full partner in ministry, Shin said. She has a gift for hospitality; the house is always filled with church leaders and their families, and with friends from many nations. Because he is often gone, she is the main caregiver for the children.

"Actually I am getting better than the last 10 years," Shin said. "I have a lot of meetings, but I am having more time with the children."

In his ministry role Shin helps determine ethnic church planting priorities, identifies and develops new leadership, and supports and encourages pastors as they reach their cultures with the Gospel.

"Where are the unreached people? Everywhere," said Shin, who frequents area junior and senior high schools "just to introduce myself. Their parents are working hard. Maybe the kids want someone to talk to."

Shin also frequents

Puget Sound's 54 ethnic congregations. One of his priorities is establishing networks among the 15 language groups where Southern Baptists already are working. Fully functioning networks that develop emerging leaders and locate church starting sites would free him to concentrate on unreached language groups, he says.

Until that happens — and already it's beginning to take place among Hispanics and Koreans — Shin will continue to focus on all 159 language groups. He connects with them on school campuses, at celebrations, and at shopping areas frequented by ethnics.

His gentle scholar's appearance coupled with a polio-inflicted gait creates an aura of accessibility and vulnerability that opens doors to countless conversations.

"I am not worthy. He considered me worthy and the Holy Spirit pushes me a little

further," Shin said while preaching from I Timothy 1:12 at a recent Sunday afternoon Korean worship service in Oak Harbor, about two hours north of Seattle. Five women and one young girl sat in rapt attention — the remnant of a 30-member congregation before the former pastor left. "That's God's grace on my call."

He is "pushed" — in addition to the contacts he generates — by census bureau reports, demographic studies, windshield surveys to see firsthand the needs, and contacts made by ethnics to Puget Sound Baptist Association.

Thirty minutes prone on the floor each early morning prepare Shin for the day's work. "My question is, 'What can I do for you, Father?'" Shin says. "If I say something expecting, I could go wrong. By waiting on him to show me what he wants done, then in his timing, it works out."

"In starting churches, I want to sense God's movement," Shin continues. "If God moves ethnic leaders here, that's a good sign."

"We have limited resources in Puget Sound Association, but bottom line, God is not limited," Shin says. "You just need to plug into his resource."

"Part of what I do is to encourage the pastors," the language missions catalyst says. "I tell them, 'You are the gatekeeper for reaching the whole world for your people.'"

In the same way, Shin is the gatekeeper for the 159 language groups in Metro Seattle. "God considered me trustworthy,"

Shin says. "He empowered me."

ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTERN OFFERING  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS



WELCOMING — Gihwang Shin (right), language new work strategist for the Puget Sound Baptist Association, greets members of the Filipino congregation of Riverton Heights Church in Seattle. (Photo By Gibbs Frazier)

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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TDU UYA LCPX CZ UYA  
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LCPX LYBNY TQ UYA  
WCMSAG BM SPAENYAX  
DRUC QCD.

ZBPMU SAUAP CRA:

ULARUQ-ZBKA

Clue: D = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark One: Ten.